

Application No. 10/608,430
Reply dated January 17, 2006
Response to Office Action dated August 15, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENT

Description of amendments

Applicant has amended claim 1, and cancelled claims 2-7 and 13-15.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§102 and 103(a)

Claims 1-6 and 9-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by George (U.S. Patent 5,507,847). Claims 7, 8, 14, and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over George in view of Tokar (U.S. Patent 5,935,284). The amendments to claim 1 and the cancellation of claims 2-7 and 13-15 render the rejections moot.

Patentability of amended claims 1 and 8-12

Amended claims 1 and 8-12 are patentable over the cited references, because the cited references, either alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest amended claim 1.

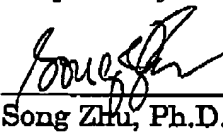
In light of the foregoing remarks, this application is considered to be in condition for allowance, and early passage of this case to issue is respectfully requested. If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

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If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #037141.51861US).

Respectfully submitted,

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